

Senate Bill #609

Dear Committee Chair,

I am submitting this letter in SUPPORT of voting FOR this bill to be passed.

I live in the City of Detroit. I have lived in Detroit my entire life. I represent the 48205 Zip Code (named by many as the Red Zone). In my zip code it has been reported that only 18% of the inhabitants hold an Associates Degree or higher, I am part of that 18%. I have raised 4 children in the City of Detroit, and have thus far been able to avoid being the victim of any type of senseless crime. I haven't had so much as a break-in in my home (knock on wood). The one thing that my family HAS been the victim of are these exorbitant, egregious, personally inflammatory (because they make you feel like a criminal when you are NOT), and down right RACIST Driver Responsibility Fees.

Myself and now my driving age children have been able to live "criminally free" for 100% of our lives, only to be cast as a criminal in the eyes of this horrible law because somebody in Lansing thought it would be a great idea to "experiment" on the backs of poor people to see just how much money the State could squeeze out of living, breathing, working, trying to stay under the radar TURNIPS! As the saying goes, you CANNOT squeeze blood from a turnip, which is what the State of Michigan has been doing for the last 13yrs.

It is incomprehensible that there are over 550 million dollars of outstanding debt owed because of this law. I implore each and every person in the Michigan Legislature (if you are not already aware of how this law has decimated families financially and mentally), to educate themselves on how much devastation this bill has and continues to reign upon families. Senator Hilderbrand stated on the radio yesterday morning (910 AM) that they are in the process of educating the Senators and Representatives on this piece of legislation. I'm not sure how much EDUCATION needs to be done considering this LAW has been around for 13yrs. The lives of many Detroiters rest on the elimination of the treacherous law.

Most families in the city of Detroit are in a very real position of suffering from PTSD because of the financial burden of these fees. The mental health on an already mentally challenged population is tantamount to criminal conduct on the part of the State. Just imagine how individuals in Flint who are living under the strain are feeling right now. In addition to trying to escape or work their way around a polluted water system, they also are trying to figure out HOW they will be able to drive to earn enough money to supply fresh clean water to their homes and loved ones. Image the anxiety around the fear of racking up MORE Driver Responsibility Fees if they are caught driving with a suspended license because they HAVE to work to earn money to keep fresh water flowing into their home. This keeps them in a never ending cycle of mental anxiety of "how am I going to support my family" if I can't drive???

This bill would give SO much relief for SO many families. Happy families WILLINGLY contribute to the economy over and above what they HAVE to contribute. Isn't part of Michigan's sustained growth dependent on citizens actively participating in the purchase of goods and services over and above their earmarked dollars for necessities? Well, the elimination of this law will help those families do just that. The elimination of this law will decrease the level of anxiety for many families who are impacted by this unjust "experimental" law.

Respectfully,

Kellie McCline

A life long Detroit Citizen living in the Red Zone